

JSTOR

TOPICS COVERED IN JSTOR: archival, full-text coverage of selected core journals in African American and African Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Architecture, Art and Art History, Asian Studies, Botany, Business, Classical Studies, Ecology, Economics, Education, Finance, General Science, Geography, History, History of Science, Latin American Studies, Literature, Mathematics, Middle East Studies, Music, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Political Science, Population Studies, Slavic Studies, Sociology, and Statistics.

YEARS OF COVERAGE: from the first issue of each journal (in several cases, in the 19th century) to the “moving wall” period of 1-5 years from the most recently published issues.

WILD CARDS: Wild Cards can be used to represent one or more characters in a search term. A question mark (?) can be used for single character searching and an asterisk (*) can be used for multiple character searching. Wildcards are typically used to search for alternate spellings of the same word and to search for variations on a root word. Please note, wildcard characters cannot be used in place of the first letter of a word and cannot be used within an exact phrase search.

BOOLEAN: Yes (**AND, OR, NOT**)

USE OF NOT:

Searches using NOT exclude articles containing the keyword following NOT.
To exclude items containing a keyword, use NOT before the keyword.

To find all items with the keyword cat that do not contain the word dog, search for:
cat NOT dog

NOT can also be expressed with a dash symbol, as such: cat –dog

Note that in Advanced Search you also have the option of using the “None of these words” search field to exclude term(s).

PHRASE SEARCHING: To search for an exact phrase, use double quote marks around the phrase: (e.g., "punctuated equilibrium"). While in Advanced Search, you also have the option of using the “exact phrase” search field.

PROXIMITY SEARCHING:

JSTOR allows you to find terms that are within a specific number of words of each other using the tilde (~) as a proximity operator. For example, to search for an item with the terms debt and forgiveness within ten words of each other, you would construct the following query:

"debt forgiveness"~10

NOTE: Proximity searches are based on word count only. All punctuation is ignored.

SEARCHABLE FIELDS: Full-text, author, title, abstract, caption

ADVANCED SEARCH:

Main Search Fields:

“All of these words” = AND

“The exact phrase” = **All** the words **exactly** how you’ve entered them in the search box

“At least one of these words” = OR

“None of these words” = NOT (use carefully as excluding words from your search may omit useful results)

Narrowing Your Search:

You can narrow by:

These Fields: Title Author Caption Abstract

These Types: Article Review Opinion piece Other items

These Dates: From: Through: (specify dates as yyyy, yyyy/mm, or yyyy/mm/dd)

These Journal Title(s): (separate titles with semicolon)

These Discipline(s) and/or Journal(s): (choose from list, scroll down to view)

Here’s a search scenario that will let you try out some of the Advanced Search options:

A patron might give you an incomplete citation noting the author as “Ahern” and the journal as *Classical Philology*. The patron knows the article has something to do with Ovid, but nothing else. In the Advanced Search screen, look under “Discipline(s) and/or Journal(s).” Click on the plus sign next to Classical Studies to expand the journal list. Select *Classical Philology* then scroll back up to the search box. Type Ahern Ovid into the first search field. Click the Search button and you will see your results. The first article that comes up looks like it may be what the patron is searching for.

Available limits:

1. By date of publication

2. By type of material (articles, reviews, opinion pieces, other items)

3. Full-text content only: as an archive, JSTOR typically does not contain recently published articles. However, for a subset of journals, JSTOR is able to display the citation information and a link to the full text of recent articles as provided by other online resources. Searches in JSTOR are performed on the citation information, or metadata, for these recent articles in addition to the full-text and citation information of older content. You may choose to exclude the links to recent content in your search results by:

Marking the checkbox for "Search full-text content only"

-OR-

Setting your Search Preference

4. By particular subject or journal: Searches can be improved by designating particular set(s) of journals within subject area(s). Specific journals can also be selected as the focus of a given search.

Printing/Downloading/Saving Citations, etc.:

LINKS FROM WITHIN RECORDS: No. The four million + pages of text in JSTOR are scanned in from the original source and, thus, do not allow for links within pages or for copying or pasting text. Articles may be printed &/or downloaded (PDF format recommended) and then emailed/printed. The Print/Download features are at the top of the screen. Using the “Save Citation” feature, citations may be saved and then printed, exported to bibliographic software, or emailed.

SAVING CITATIONS:

Go to Advanced Search. Type “Bigger Thomas” Communism into the first “Full-Text” search field (which will AND these terms – Bigger Thomas AND Communism -- **automatically** for you) and select African American Studies from the Discipline/Journals list. Click Search; this should retrieve over 30 results.

Click on Save Citation underneath the first citation in the search results. This will save the citation for you while you continue using JSTOR (note that items in your Saved Citations List will be deleted after you remove the citations from your list. Citations will also be deleted if you close your browser completely, or if you decide to "Exit JSTOR").

Also note, you can save citations by clicking on “Save All Citations on this Page” on the Search Results page.

To view your saved citations, click on “View Saved Citations.” JSTOR citations can be saved to a Saved Citations List for copying, printing, emailing, and export to bibliographic software such as EndNote, ProCite, Reference Manager, RefWorks, or spreadsheet software such as Microsoft Excel.

JSTOR Practice Questions

BASIC SEARCH:

To understand search features, try following this basic search:

"cultural anthropology" AND "Alfred Kroeber" (note that these separate phrases need to be connected in Basic Search mode with a Boolean operator, in this case, we'll use an AND to connect them)

You will be searching the author, title, and full-text of all types of journal content (articles, book reviews, etc.) by default.

This search retrieved about 125 results. Notice that the articles are arranged according to Highest Scoring, or relevance; that is, those articles determined to be the best matches will be at the top of the list. If you would like to look at articles based on when they were published, use the “Sort by” feature at the top of the page and choose from the options listed in the drop-down menu. The article list will then appear in the appropriate selected order.

Under each citation are several options: Citation, Page of First Match, Print, Download, and Save Citation. To view an article, click its title; this will lead to the first page of the article.

There are several navigation options from this page:

- Previous and following pages of the article
- Jump to a particular page within the article wherein the search term(s) appear
- Previous and following items that appeared in the journal from which the article comes

Note that it is possible to print, download, get a citation or stable URL, look at the table of contents, and return to search results from the options across the top of the page.

One can possibly retrieve similar articles by viewing other articles from the same journal issue by clicking on Table of Contents option. The table of contents for that issue of the journal will appear.

LIMIT/MODIFY SEARCH:

If we decide that the search gave us too many results, not enough results, or not the kinds of articles we wanted, we can click the “Modify Your Search” button to change the search. If, for example, we look at the results and decide that over 125 articles for our search, “Cultural Anthropology” AND “Alfred Kroeber,” is too many and what we really want are articles that have information about genetic classification and Alfred Kroeber, we can change the search here.

Try searching on “genetic classification” AND “Alfred Kroeber”

Note that we now get 6 results.

BROWSE IN JSTOR:

Sometimes it is useful to browse a particular issue or several issues of one or more journals held in JSTOR. Select Browse from the top navigation bar. Journals can be browsed by discipline. For an example of browsing, follow below:

Click Population Studies. Browse a 1995 issue of *Demography*. Notice the difference in holdings for various journals.